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COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO.  TOPIC Military Information from Schweinrich Troop Training Grounds and Neuruppin PostEVALUATION see belowPLACE OBTAINED  

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DATE OF CONTENT 2 to 15 April 1954

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REFERENCES  PAGES 2ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)  REMARKS  

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1. At about 10 a.m. on 2 April, 9 T-34 tanks drove toward Neuruppin from the area of Rheinsberg, Bienenwalde, Zechow and Guehlen-Glienicke. More units arrived in the Rheinsberg - Bienenwalde - Zechow sector. They were quartered in earth bunkers in the dense woods near Zechow. No movements were observed in the Schweinrich sector. On 3 April, only a guard detail was noticed in the Neuglienicke sector. On 4 April, troops strung a telephone line from Neuruppin to Neuglienicke.

Between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. on 5 April, about 20 JS tanks, 10 T-34 tanks, 10 SP guns, 10 heavy SP guns, 12 jeeps, 100 trucks and 15 sidocar motorcycles arrived in Neuglienicke from the direction of Neuruppin. The same day, the area around Frankenorf was unusually heavily occupied. Soldiers constructed field fortifications. On 6 April, more tank components arrived at the training grounds.

2. Between 8 and 15 April, 20 T-34 tanks   daily engaged in tank firing at Gentzrode troop training grounds. The practices began at about 8 a.m. and terminated at about 5 p.m.

3. At about 3:15 p.m. on 5 April, 7 x 132-mm rocket launchers, 1 truck with a field kitchen and 10 trucks with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets moved along Kraenzliner Strasse in Neuruppin toward Kraenzlin. At about 3:20 p.m. on 5 April, 10 trucks   towing 122-mm howitzers, 1 truck towing a field kitchen and about 13 trucks with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets left the Friedrich-Franz Kaserne (2201) toward Kraenzlin. The rear wall of the trucks bore a tactical mark which consisted of a full white circle to the left, and a white circle to the right with a white 1 in the center. At about 3:30 p.m. on 5 April, 13 trucks towing 37-mm AA guns, 3 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns   8 armored personnel carriers, BA-64s, 3 trucks towing field kitchens, 19 trucks with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 3 jeeps and 1 sidocar motorcycle passed through Karl-Marx Strasse toward Wittstocker Allee. At about 3:35 p.m. on 5 April, 20 trucks towing 120-mm mortars   3 trucks towing field kitchens and about 25 trucks with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets left the See Kaserne (2203) toward

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Wittstocker Allee. The rear wall of the trucks showed a tactical mark consisting of a white full circle to the left, and a white circle to the right with the white letter M in the center. At about 4 p.m. on 5 April, 27 trucks towing 120-mm mortars, 3 trucks towing field kitchens, about 25 trucks with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 2 jeeps passed through Karl-Marx Strasse toward Wittstocker Allee. At about 4:35 p.m. on 5 April, 2 BA-64s and 1 armored personnel carrier passed through Karl-Marx Strasse toward Franz Kuenstler Strasse. The rear and side walls of the vehicles bore a wide white vertical line as tactical mark. At about 4:55 p.m. on 5 April, 6 BA-64s, 4 armored personnel carriers with the above mentioned tactical mark, 4 sidecar motorcycles, 4 trucks towing field kitchens, 23 trucks with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets 7 jeeps were observed moving along Wittstocker Allee toward Wittstock. At about 4:35 p.m. on 6 April, 6 trucks towing 37-mm AA guns, 2 BA-64s, 7 armored personnel carriers, 5 trucks towing field kitchens, 3 tank trucks, 1 ambulance, about 35 trucks with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 2 jeeps moved along Wittstocker Allee toward Wittstock.

4. The following columns moved along Wittstocker Allee toward Neuruppin:

At about 5:45 p.m. on 7 April: 5 trucks towing 37-mm AA guns, 4 BA-64s, 12 armored personnel carriers, 1 truck towing a field kitchen, 3 tank trucks, 1 ambulance and 24 trucks with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 8 jeeps.

At about 6:20 p.m. on 7 April: 11 trucks with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets 5 trucks towing field kitchens, and 1 jeep.

At 6:50 p.m. on 7 April: 12 trucks with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 2 trucks towing field kitchens and 1 jeep.

At about 7 p.m. on 7 April: 4 T-34/85 tanks and 1 JS-2 tank.

At about 10:20 p.m. on 7 April: 3 BA-64s, 4 armored personnel carriers, 1 truck towing a field kitchen, 1 tank truck and 14 trucks with troops.

At about 10:35 p.m. on 7 April: 2 trucks towing 85-mm AT guns, 5 BA-64s, 6 armored personnel carriers, 3 trucks towing field kitchens, and 35 trucks with troops.

At about 7 a.m. on 8 April: 5 x 122-mm howitzers and about 30 trucks were parked in the yard of the Friedrich-Franz Kaserne. At about 8:30 a.m. on 8 April, 6 rocket launchers were lined up in the yard of the Friedrich Franz Kaserne

Kaserne

Comment. supplements previous information according to which an exercise of the reinforced 12th Gds Tank Div was conducted in the area of Wittstock training grounds after 5 April. These observations are confirmed by the present information from Neuruppin. According to the weapons, units departing from the post on 5 April included elements of the 89th Gds RL Bn (US), 497th Arty Regt (US), 75th AAA Regt (US) and 226th Mort Regt. According to the reference report, the exercise continued up to 10 April. It is therefore possible that elements of the division only temporarily returned to the quarters on 7 April. these troops included elements of the 59th Tank Tng Bn (US).

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